

this, but I am now convinced George Bush should remain in Washington. Now that D.C. has a baseball team, there is finally a job in this town which George Bush is qualified for and the work is not that hard or tough.

He may not know how many troops we need in Iraq, but even he knows that you need nine baseball players on the field; and in baseball, you do not declare mission accomplished until the game's last out.

I am surprised the White House has not boasted about the Expos' move from Montreal. After all, they are finally creating some jobs here in America.

Of course, the President would have some explaining to do to his new team. He will have to break it to them that they have just moved from a nation with universal health care to a Nation where 45 million people lack coverage. Welcome to the ownership society.

He will also need to warn them that it is not just chin-high fast balls that they need to watch out for in Washington, since the Republican Congress and the NRA just erased the city's gun laws.

When head of the Texas Rangers, George Bush traded Sammy Sosa. In November Americans have a chance to trade George Bush.

HELP PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES IN AMERICA

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am known for running a 4-minute mile, and while today I run a 4-minute half-mile, I still make running a priority. I know that exercise is preventative medicine at best. Healthy, active lifestyles could save \$76 billion in health care costs each year. Health insurance companies clearly have an incentive to keep their beneficiaries healthy.

There are 88 million inactive adults in the United States today. Sixty-one percent of adults exceed their target weight, increasing their risks for more than 30 illnesses, most of which are preventable. Exercise is beneficial to every age group, and for those over the age of 50, strength training has been proven to reduce osteoporosis and increase bone density.

Insurance companies can do more to promote healthy living by offering incentives for those who exercise regularly and encouraging preventative health screenings.

H. Con. Res. 34 commends the health insurance companies who are already acknowledging the benefits of exercise and rewarding their active beneficiaries and encouraging others to do the same. Join me in voting for H. Con. Res. 34 today and help promote healthy lifestyles in America.

REPUBLICAN HOUSE BRIBERY

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend a former Republican Congressman accused Republican leaders here in the House of trying to bribe him in order to gain his support for legislation he did not support. This is not the first time House Republicans attempted to bribe Members of their caucus to vote a certain way, nor will it probably be the last.

This weekend on "Meet the Press," former Republican Congressman Tom Coburn said the Republican leadership offered him a bribe to vote in favor of a transportation bill.

Coburn told moderator Tim Russert that he did not want to support a Republican transportation bill because it was not paid for. So what did the Republican leadership do? I am quoting former Congressman Tom Coburn when he says, "I was then offered a bribe by the committee to vote for the bill. I could have \$15 million to spend wherever I wanted to." Coburn continues, "I don't believe that's the kind of government we want. That's what we're seeing in Congress now with some of the ethical problems that are there."

Mr. Coburn, I could not agree with you more. Unfortunately, the abuses of power have happened on the Republican Party's watch, and we will not see a change unless Democrats return to power both here in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The Chair reminds Members that they should direct their comments to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

PRESIDENT BUSH IS THE RIGHT LEADER IN THE WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President George W. Bush has led our Nation in the global war on terror with consistent strength and courage. After thousands of innocent Americans were murdered on September 11, he understood the nature of the terrorist threat and immediately went on the offensive to protect American families.

The Democratic Presidential nominee, JOHN KERRY, has proven he has a September 10 approach. When asked what he would do about the war on terror, KERRY said America should hold summits and must pass a global test before defending the American people. This is a mixed message that will do nothing to deter terrorists.

Under President Bush's leadership, America has liberated 50 million people

from terrorist-sponsoring regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq, captured or killed hundreds of terrorists, formed a new Department of Homeland Security, initiated training of Iraqi police and military, and stopped the flow of millions of dollars in terrorist funding. President Bush has proven he is the right leader to win the war on terrorism by making courageous decisions to protect American families.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

HEALTH CARE COSTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, average Americans confronting the exploding cost of health care today are continuing to feel the pain, and the Republican leadership of this body who can ease that pain is doing nothing.

We know now that in the past 4 years the cost of health care for the average worker has increased three times faster than the increase in wages. More than 14 million Americans now spend more than one-quarter of their paycheck on health care. Yet House Republican leadership offers no promise of a solution.

These numbers confirm what we hear every day from workers being forced into unconscionable choices. What do we have to offer a parent who must choose between housing and health care? What solution can we promise business owners, particularly small business owners, who must tell employees that they will no longer cover their health benefits?

On one of the most fundamental crises of our time the leadership of Congress is deafly silent. The responsibility, Mr. Speaker, resides here. If the Republican leadership of this House and the President of the United States are not committed to solving this problem, one that costs Americans so much of their paycheck, what excuse can they offer working Americans?

The Republican majority and the President can choose to make health care a priority. I wonder how much longer American workers can afford to wait for leadership.

LOST PUBLIC TRUST

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Office of the President of the United States transcends politics. Even when the person occupying the office violates the public trust, as President Nixon did, the American people lost faith in the politician but not the office. It was an extreme display of patriotism and optimism. America is on the verge of doing that again.

When an administration that claims, as this one did, that it had hard incontrovertible evidence of weapons of mass destruction, the American people believed it because it came from the Office of the President. Now the President's security adviser admits there were serious doubts that Saddam had the aluminum tubes needed for weapons of mass destruction, the very basis for going to war; but the administration ignored the evidence and manufactured the sound bites that took America to war.

In so doing, the administration violated the trust the American people place in the Office of the President. The American people will take the first step in restoring integrity to the Office of the President when they elect JOHN KERRY as the next President on November 2. It cannot come too soon.

CRYSTAL-CLEAR CHOICES

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the future of our health care system is at stake in the November election.

In one way or another, every American has experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly about our health care system; and the question voters all across this country should ask themselves is: Are we better off than we were 4 years ago?

Let us take one look at our administration's record on health care. Since 2001, an additional 5.2 million Americans are uninsured. For the American businesses and families, health care premiums have risen more than \$3,500 in these 3 years. We are paying more and covering fewer people.

Under this administration's watch, seniors have felt the sting of double-digit Medicare premium increases. Seniors and everyone else's prescription drug costs increase steadily, and we watch the administration fight plans that allow Medicare to negotiate for lower costs.

The American people deserve better. This Congress should do better.

We should fund children's health care programs and expand to working families who cannot afford health care insurance. We need to reverse this administration's damage by cutting our families' health insurance premiums by \$1,000 a year.

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We should allow for crucial stem cell research that holds such promise for our loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is clear this November.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF REPUBLICAN PARTY

(Mr. COX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, this is the 150th anniversary of the Republican Party's founding. After a century and a half, from the abolition of slavery to the establishment of women's suffrage, to the liberation of millions of people in the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and Iraq, there has not been any question but that the Republican Party is the most effective political organization in the history of the world in advancing the cause of freedom.

In 1924, this week, Republicans denounced the Democrats' Presidential nominee William Jennings Bryant for defending the Ku Klux Klan at the Democratic National Convention. It was this week in 1868 that Republicans denounced the Democrats for adopting a national campaign theme, "This is a White Man's Country, Let White Men Rule."

Mr. Speaker, each day of the year, the Republican Freedom Calendar highlights a civil rights achievement of this most American of institutions. The calendar is available at www.policy.house.gov.

ARE YOU BETTER OFF—HEALTH CARE

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has had only one policy in the last 4 years and that is the fiscally irresponsible tax cuts to the wealthiest people in this country. Today, an additional 5.2 million Americans are uninsured, and the family share of health care premiums has risen by over \$1,000 in 4 years, a 57 percent increase.

In addition, prior to George Bush, we had, for the first time in 12 years, brought down the number of uninsured. Now we find ourselves with 45 million Americans that are uninsured. Family USA just reported the fact that at any given time there are over 80 million Americans without access to insurance during a period of their life.

So we find ourselves in a situation where this administration has failed to keep up with the CHIP program, the program that responds to the needs of our children that are uninsured, of working Americans that are out there paying their taxes, working hard, but finding themselves without access to health care.

This country can do better. We can do better. We have the best health care system in the world. Let us do better.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4850, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4850) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or

in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. FRELINGHUYSEN, ISTOOK, CUNNINGHAM, DOOLITTLE, WELDON of Florida, CULBERSON, YOUNG of Florida, FATTAH, PASTOR, CRAMER, and OBEY.

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 878, CREATING ADDITIONAL FEDERAL COURT JUDGESHIPS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 814 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 814

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (S. 878) to authorize an additional permanent judgeship in the district of Idaho, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.